

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07319 171823Z

64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11 INT-08

COME-00 DRC-01 /098 W

----- 023478

R 171645Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9427

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUMBUMBASHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 7319

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BE, CG, EGEN

SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE ATTACKS ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC MEASURES

REF: KINSHASA 10836

SUMMARY: BELGIAN MAGAZINE POURQUOI PAS ATTACKS RECENT ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC MEASURES AND CALLS FOR END TO BELGIAN INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE. OFFICIAL BELGIAN STATEMENT ON ZAIRIAN MEASURES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 21. END SUMMARY.

2. INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY POURQUOI PAS BROKE RANKS OF BELGIAN PRESS MODERATE REACTION TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RECENT ECONOMIC MEASURES WITH BITTER COVER STORY ENTITLED "LA GRANDE BOUFFE" DECEMBER 13. REFERRING IRONICALLY THROUGHOUT ARTICLE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S HORRIFIC TITLES AND LEADERSHIP STYLE, POURQUOI PAS, CALLED NATIONALIZATIONS "RACKET" AND GREATEST RAID ON FOREIGN PROPERTIES ORGANIZED IN "GOVERNED" NATION SINCE BOLSHEVIST EPOCH".

3. EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT SUFFICIENT REFINING CAPACITY CAN BE DEVELOPED IN ZAIRE TO FULFILL MOBUTU'S PLEDGE TO REFINER ALL ZAIRIAN COPPER IN ZAIRE BY 1980, ARTICLE NOTED THAT, NEVERTHELESS,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07319 171823Z

COMPLETED ZAIRIANIZATION WOULD REQUIRE RUPTURE OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND SOCIETE GENERALE DES MINERAIS. IT THEN CHARGED

THAT MOBUTU BREWING PLAN "TO DISTURB AND SABOTAGE" WHOLE WESTERN COPPER MARKET AND REPEATED REPORTS THAT HE OBTAINED ARAB AGREEMENT AT ALGIERS SUMMIT TO FINANCE LARGE STOCKPILE OF ZAIRIAN AND ZAMBIAN COPPER TO PUT PRESSURE ON WEST.

4. REFERRING TO COLONIZATION OF CONGO AS PERIOD IN WHICH BELGIUM REDUCED CONGOLESE FROM STONE AGE EXISTENCE AND SLAVERY, POURQUOI PAS CALLED ON BELGIANS TO CEASE BEING EXPLOITED COWARDS AND TERMINATE ONCE AND FOR ALL "EXPENSE OF AN EXPERIMENT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THEIR RIDICULE AFTER HAVING COST THEM TENS OF BILLIONS OF FRANCS." TEXT OF ARTICLE TO DEPARTMENT AND KINSHASA BY POUCH.

5. COMMENT: ARTICLE MAY HAVE EVOKED FAVORABLE RESPONSE IN CERTAIN BUSINESS AND PUBLIC CIRCLES, BUT NOT IN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HOPED PRESS WOULD CONTINUE MODERATE LINE. WE UNDERSTAND, IN FACT, THAT GOB INSPIRED DECEMBER 11 ARTICLE IN LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, WHICH EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY'S NEED TO FREE SELF FROM FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AND CALLED FOR BELGIAN- ZAIRIAN RELATIONSHIP WHICH EMPHASIZES " MUTUAL WILL TO CONSTRUCT RATHER THAN DESTROY." POURQUOI PAS ARTICLE, ON OTHER HAND, IS KIND WHICH FONMIN OFFICIALS FEAR MAY BE USED BY MOBUTU AS PRETEXT FOR SEVERE MEASURES AGAINST COPPER MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH SOCIETE GENERALE. FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMS US STATEMENT BY FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE ON ZAIRIAN MEASURES IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 21. BOOCHEVER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, COPPER, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, MAGAZINES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, REFINERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE07319
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731221/aaaaappg.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 10836
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Aug-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ARTICLE ATTACKS ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC MEASURES
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BE, CG, POURQUOI PAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005